

Marin County Community Development Agency

Alex Hinds, Director

July 11, 2008

Dear Interested Community Member:

RE: Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project

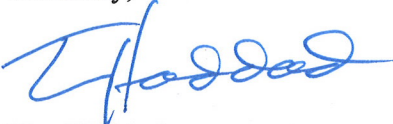
I would like to invite you to a public scoping session regarding the joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project. The scoping session is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2008, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Drakes Landing Community Room, 300 Drakes Landing Road, Greenbrae, CA 94904.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify environmental issues and concerns the public may have about the proposed project so that these issues can be evaluated in the joint EIS/EIR being prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Marin County Community Development Agency. The attached notice provides more details about the project and the meeting.

Please make every effort to join us and share your questions and concerns about this proposed project. If you would prefer to submit your comments in writing, or cannot attend the scoping meeting, we will accept written comments about the scope of the environmental report until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2008. Please send any written comments you have prior to the August 11 submittal deadline to the attention of Tim Haddad at the Community Development Agency address below.

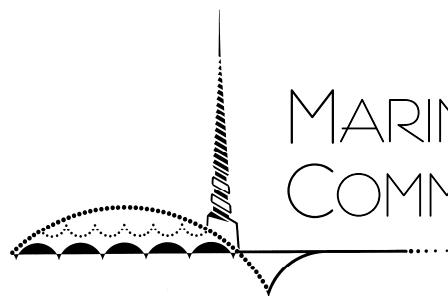
Please call Jack Curley at the Marin Department of Public Works if you have questions about the project at (415) 499-3051, or Tim Haddad if you have questions about the community scoping meeting at (415) 499-6269.

Sincerely,



Tim Haddad
Environmental Coordinator

Attachments: Notice of Public Scoping Session
Agenda
Location Map for the Drakes Landing Community Center
EIS/EIR Procedure Information
Written Comment Form



MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

ALEX HINDS, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INTENT AND NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING OF A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Marin County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for review and comment on the Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project. The purpose of the joint project is to provide flood risk management for Corte Madera Creek by addressing channel modification opportunities to Unit 4, from the upstream end of the existing Unit 3 concrete channel to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at the border of Ross and San Anselmo. Although Unit 1, 2, and 3 channel modifications were completed in 1971, public concerns led to a delay in the planned actions for Unit 4. In 1996, Marin County requested the completion of Unit 4 by the Corps, and damages incurred by the December 2005 flood have also renewed public interest in finding solutions to minimize the risk of future floods. Since 1971 additional technical studies were conducted that provide an opportunity to formulate and review new alternatives. The EIS/EIR will consider all reasonable alternatives to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

Additional studies conducted by the Corps focused on evaluating the design performance of Units 3 and 4. These studies identified the unsmooth transition between Units 3 and 4 created by the existing Denil fish ladder, the narrow channel condition on the east and west bank, and the Lagunitas Road Bridge as constrictions to flood flow. The replacement of Lagunitas Road Bridge is an option that is being evaluated by the Town of Ross and is not currently part of this federal project. The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers propose to manage flood risk along Corte Madera Creek downstream of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The proposed action may include changes to the existing design of Unit 3 to ensure a total project design capacity.

The alternatives evaluated will be developed in consideration of fish passage for threatened and endangered fish species that migrate through the project area, riparian habitat, as well as other potential environmental issues of concern as noted in the subsequent table. Preliminary project alternatives include:

- *No action* – current conditions would be retained at Units 3 and 4 and flood capacity would remain unchanged at approximately 3,200 cubic feet per second (cfs). Under existing conditions excess flood flows would pass outside the channel onto a residential floodplain. This alternative is considered a baseline for evaluating other alternatives.
- *Minimum action* – The existing Denil fish ladder, in addition to being inadequate for fish passage, exacerbates flooding in Unit 4. The existing ladder would be replaced with a concrete pool-and-chute fish ladder, with a proposed location within the upstream length of the Unit 3 concrete channel. Other design considerations include meeting current fish passage criteria as established by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) restrictions on the height of vertical leaps. The estimated flood flow capacity of Unit 4 would depend on the design of the replacement fish ladder.
- *Unit 4 design alternative* – In addition to the minimum action, flood risk management measures proposed for Unit 4 include (1) installing vertical wall configurations that would widen the channel and increase the maximum flood flow capacity to approximately 5,100 – 5,400 cfs, depending on the specific design; (2) constructing a bypass culvert adjacent to Lagunitas Bridge that would convey high flows from the bridge to the beginning of the concrete channel, with capacity ranging from 300 – 1,300 cfs depending on the type of culvert structure; (3) installing temporary or permanent low floodwalls; (4) enlarging the sediment basin immediately downstream of Lagunitas Bridge which would decrease the water surface profile downstream and increase flood flow capacity; (5) creating a natural channel bottom with natural grade protection that would accommodate a flow rate of approximately 5,400 cfs; and (6) implementing grade control in order to stabilize the stream bottom.
- *Unit 3- 4 structural design alternative*. Measures that are proposed to modify the junction between Unit 3 and 4 include (1) replacing the existing fish ladder with a natural grade roughened rock channel between the Unit 3 and 4 transition, which would allow for fish passage while increasing flood flow capacity to 4,900 cfs and improving conveyance into the existing concrete channel; (2) bank regrading and use of biotechnical bank stabilization techniques involving such natural materials as native vegetation, logs, and woody debris; and (3) installing concrete wing walls to facilitate flood flows into the stream channel.
- *Non-structural alternative*: The non-structural plan would include expanding the existing floodplain by moving residential property through real estate acquisitions.

Additional alternatives may be identified during the scoping and report preparation process.

Pursuant to local, state, and federal guidelines, Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 9 is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. The Marin County Environmental Coordinator and the Corps have determined that a full scope joint EIS/EIR is required for the project. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) and CEQ-NEPA Regulations Part 1501.3(a), an Initial Study and Environmental Assessment have not been prepared. The EIS/EIR will focus on the following topical issues:

1) Land Use & Planning	6) Transportation/Circulation	11) Public Services
2) Population & Housing	7) Biological Resources	12) Utilities & Service Systems
3) Geophysical	8) Energy & Natural Resources	13) Aesthetics/Visual Resources
4) Water	9) Hazards	14) Cultural Resources
5) Air Quality	10) Noise	15) Social & Economic Effects Related to Physical Impacts

In addition, the EIS/EIR will consider both beneficial and adverse impacts, cumulative impacts, and effects to the human environment including recreation, public health and safety as per NEPA Sects.1508.8, 1508.14.

To ensure that the EIS/EIR for this project is thorough and adequate, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Marin County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a **Public Scoping Meeting, Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 7:00 PM at Drakes Landing Community Room**, 300 Drakes Landing, Greenbrae, CA, 94904. Public comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR are encouraged. Written comments, accepted until the close of the comment period at 4:00PM on August 11, 2008, can be mailed to Tim Haddad, Environmental Coordinator, Marin County Community Development Agency, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903-4157, or to Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 1455 Market Street, 15th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. All written comments can also be faxed to (415) 503-6692 or sent electronically to SPNETPA@usace.army.mil. Please direct questions about the project itself to Jack Curley at (415) 499-3051 at the Marin Department of Public Works or to Nancy Ferris at (415) 503-6865 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Further information is also available on the project website at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/cortemaderacreek/index.html>.



07/11/08

Tim Haddad,
Environmental Coordinator

Please use backside of page for additional comments, if needed. This comment form may be handed in at the scoping session to County Staff or mailed to the attention of Tim Haddad, prior to **August 11, 2008**, at the Marin County Community Development Agency - Planning Division, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903.

**CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION

**Drakes Landing Community Room
300 Drakes Landing Road
Greenbrae, CA 94904**

**Wednesday July 23, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**



**MARIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DIVISION
AND
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION
ON
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT FOR
CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

Wednesday, July 23, 2008
Drakes Landing Community Room
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
300 Drakes Landing Road
Greenbrae, California

AGENDA

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|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 7:00 PM | I. | Introduction |
| 7:05 PM | II. | Purpose of Meeting/Meeting Procedure/
NEPA/CEQA Process
Tim Haddad, Environmental Planning Coordinator
Nancy Ferris, Environmental Planner |
| 7:10 PM | III. | Project Overview
Jim Miller, Project Manager |
| 7:20 PM to-
9:00 PM | IV. | Public Comments and Concerns
on Preparation of Project EIS/EIR |
| 9:00 PM | V. | Adjournment |

MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AND
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project
July 23, 2008

EIS/EIR PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

Purpose of the Scoping Session

The County is holding this public scoping session to facilitate maximum public participation in the development of a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project. This scoping session is being held pursuant to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to provide early consultation with the public on the EIS/EIR being prepared for the project. This early consultation is typically called scoping.

The purpose of this public scoping session is to provide individuals, organizations and agencies an opportunity to raise concerns about the environmental effects of the proposed project. Comments will be recorded and be made part of the formal EIS/EIR record. There are likely to be questions raised by speakers at the session, although in the interest of giving everyone a chance to speak, any questions asked will be responded to through the EIS/EIR process rather than at this meeting. Responses to comments and questions will not be provided at the scoping session since the purpose of the session is for the public to provide information to the County and the Corps of Engineers.

Comments must be limited to the scope of environmental effects to be studied, rather than commenting on the merits of the project at this time. NEPA and CEQA define environmental effects as direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the natural and man-made environment affected by the project. Effects analyzed under CEQA must be related to a physical change in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines sections 15358 and 15360.)

Comment Procedure

At the public scoping session, members of the public will have the opportunity to submit written comments and/or to make oral comments during the session. Those wishing to speak should fill out a pink testimony sign-in card.

In anticipation of a good turnout and limited time, and in order to allow everyone an equal opportunity to speak, each speaker will be limited to three minutes, more or less, depending upon the turnout. Signs will notify the speaker when remaining time is one minute and at the conclusion of the three minute period. Members of organizations are encouraged to select a spokesperson from the organization to speak on the group's behalf to avoid repetition of the same concerns.

Comment forms are available for those who wish to submit written comments either to supplement or take the place of oral comments at the session. Comment forms may also be used to indicate agreement with specific speakers or organization environmental issues in lieu of orally repeating similar concerns. Written comments about the scope of the environmental report will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on August 11, 2008.

Other Opportunities for Public Comment

The public will have additional opportunities to comment during the EIS/EIR process and hearings on the merits of the proposed project. Notices will be sent to everyone on the scoping session sign-up sheet indicating the availability of the Draft EIS/EIR and the time and location of public hearings on the proposed project.